

Wycombe made to fight to beat Maidstone Utd.

Sports Mail Special Report

WYCOMBE W. 2 MAIDSTONE UTD. 1

WYCOMBE Wanderers found Maidstone United fast and determined opponents in an Isthmian League game at Loakes Park this afternoon. After being on terms, 1-1, at half-time, Wycombe scored a second goal after the interval to win 2-1.

Wycombe: Syrett; Beck, Moring; Truett, Fisher, Fryer; Atkins, Trott, Bates, Morris, Free.

Maidstone: Wiltshire; Simpkins, Everest; Burnett, J. Harris, Cutbush, Fondyke, D. Harris, Myers, Morgan, Dowler.

Referee: L. Rockman (East Barnet).

Maidstone were the first to threaten with a right wing attack. An accurate centre was caught on the bounce by Morgan, but his shot went just wide.

When Wycombe retaliated Truett sent the ball over the bar with a long shot after several advances had been initiated by Bates.

Much of the play was confined to midfield with a good deal of aimless kicking and neither forward line was able to get the better of quick tackling defences.

One shot by the Maidstone centre forward, Myers, was blocked by Truett and another went just wide.

MISSING CHANCE

At the other end, Morris, making his first Senior League appearance for Wycombe at inside right, had a good chance from a centre by Atkins but ballooned the ball tamely.

The Wycombe forwards, however, improved steadily and after 21 minutes BATES found the mark with a cool header from a centre by Free.

Simpkins cleared off the line from a shot by Truett in another Wycombe raid immediately afterwards. Then D. Harris sped away on the Maidstone right and Fryer, in attempting to clear, headed a ball into his own net.

Wycombe were a little unlucky in strong attacks and goalkeeper Wiltshire made several good saves, notably from Trott and Atkins.

Half-time: Wycombe Wanderers 1, Maidstone 1.

Both sides attacked in turn in the second half. Running in from the left wing Free tested Wiltshire with a powerful drive and as Maidstone hit back Syrett did well to hold a crackling shot by Morgan. Play was held up for a time when Fisher was injured in a collision with the Maidstone right winger, but he was able to resume after attention.

Wycombe were penned in their own half for a time by persistent Maidstone pressure and Syrett saved the situation once with a timely save from a stinging shot by Dowler.

SHUFFLE ATTACK

Another shot by D. Harris swerved just the wrong side of the upright. Wycombe shuffled their attack. Morris went on to the wing and Atkins into the centre and soon afterwards Bates, who had adopted a wandering role gave Atkins the best chance of the match. But Atkins shot wide from only a couple of feet from goal.

A little later Wycombe should have scored again in a goal-mouth tussle, but shots by both Atkins and Bates were blocked. The Wanderers stepped up the pace in a desperate bid for the lead, but with an open goal Bates again ballooned the ball.

Their continued pressure, however, was rewarded ten minutes from the end when ATKINS, who had gone out on to the left wing, cut in to claim the winner with a fine shot.

RESULT:

WYCOMBE WAN. 2
MAIDSTONE 1

WYCOMBE JUST SHUFFLE HOME

Wycombe W. 2, Maidstone 1

WYCOMBE WANDERERS had enough chances to win comfortably against the Isthmian League newcomers Maidstone. But erratic marksmanship kept them struggling uncertainly until the last 10 minutes.

Moving the ball briskly from wing to wing, the long-legged Maidstone forwards often had the home defence in trouble with the hard-hitting inside trio, Morgan, Myers, and D. Harris, taking speculative shots at goal at every opportunity.

Then enterprising centre forward Paul Bates gave Wycombe the lead after 21 minutes from a centre by Free, but an equaliser came seven minutes later.

Maidstone's inside-right Harris flashed in a shot from an acute angle and the Wycombe left-half Fryer, attempting to head clear, diverted the ball past goalkeeper Syrett.

Wycombe were badly off the mark again in the second half and Maidstone kept hitting back with swinging attacks, marred by over-eagerness in front of goal.

Unable to achieve effective cohesion in attack, Wycombe reshuffled their forward line, Atkins moving into the centre and newcomer Ken Morris taking his place on the wing.

The change injected greater punch into the attack, but it was the tireless foraging of Bates and Trott which proved the decisive factor. Gradually these two enabled Wycombe to gain the initiative in midfield and to maintain a series of powerful attacks in the last 20 minutes.

Even then, poor finishing robbed them, Atkins and Bates both missing several easy chances.

But 10 minutes before the end Atkins nipped through to beat the hard pressed Maidstone goalkeeper Wiltshire with a powerful drive close in for the winner.